

MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510  
New York, New York 10165  
Telephone: (212) 317-1200  
Facsimile: (212) 317-1620  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

-----X

GUILLERMO IGNACIO, *individually and on  
behalf of others similarly situated,*

*Plaintiff,*

-against-

BEDFORD PITZA CORP.  
(D/B/A MOUSTACHE PITZA PITZA),  
SALAM AL-RAWI and RAKAN DROUBI,

*Defendants.*

-----X

**COMPLAINT**

**COLLECTIVE ACTION UNDER  
29 U.S.C. § 216(b)**

**ECF Case**

Plaintiff Guillermo Ignacio (“Plaintiff Ignacio” or “Mr. Ignacio”), individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C., upon his knowledge and belief, and as against Bedford Pitza Corp. (d/b/a Moustache Pitza), (“Defendant Corporation”), Salam Al-Rawi and Rakan Droubi, (“Individual Defendants”), (collectively, “Defendants”), alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1. Plaintiff Ignacio is a former employee of Defendants Bedford Pitza Corp. (d/b/a Moustache Pitza), Salam Al-Rawi and Rakan Droubi.
2. Defendants own, operate, or control a Middle Eastern restaurant, located at 90 Bedford St., New York, NY 10014 under the name “Moustache Pitza”.

3. Upon information and belief, individual Defendants Salam Al-Rawi and Rakan Droubi, serve or served as owners, managers, principals, or agents of Defendant Corporation and, through this corporate entity, operate or operated the restaurant as a joint or unified enterprise.

4. Plaintiff Ignacio was employed as a delivery worker at the restaurant located at 90 Bedford St., New York, NY 10014.

5. Plaintiff Ignacio was ostensibly employed as a delivery worker. However, he was required to spend a considerable part of his work day performing non-tipped duties, including but not limited to stocking merchandise, cleaning the refrigerator, mopping, sweeping, taking out garbage, stocking beverages in the refrigerator, carrying all sorts of items from the basement upstairs, twisting and tying up cardboard boxes and carrying down and stocking deliveries in the basement, (hereafter the “non-tipped duties”).

6. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff Ignacio worked for Defendants in excess of 40 hours per week, without appropriate minimum wage, overtime, and spread of hours compensation for the hours that he worked.

7. Rather, Defendants failed to maintain accurate recordkeeping of the hours worked and failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio appropriately for any hours worked, either at the straight rate of pay or for any additional overtime premium.

8. Further, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio the required “spread of hours” pay for any day in which he had to work over 10 hours a day.

9. Furthermore, Defendants repeatedly failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio wages on a timely basis.

10. Defendants employed and accounted for Plaintiff Ignacio as a delivery worker in their payroll, but in actuality his duties required a significant amount of time spent performing the non-tipped duties alleged above.

11. Regardless, at all relevant times, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio at a rate that was lower than the required tip-credit rate.

12. However, under both the FLSA and NYLL, Defendants were not entitled to take a tip credit because Plaintiff Ignacio's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday, or 2 hours per day, whichever is less in each day. 12 N.Y. C.R.R. §146.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed the policy and practice of disguising Plaintiff Ignacio's actual duties in payroll records by designating him as a delivery worker instead of as a non-tipped employee. This allowed Defendants to avoid paying Plaintiff Ignacio at the minimum wage rate and enabled them to pay him at the tip-credit rate (which they still failed to do).

14. In addition, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of unlawfully appropriating Plaintiff Ignacio's and other tipped employees' tips and sharing those tips with non-tipped workers such as cooks.

15. Defendants' conduct extended beyond Plaintiff Ignacio to all other similarly situated employees.

16. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Ignacio and other employees to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week without providing the minimum wage and overtime compensation required by federal and state law and regulations.

17. Plaintiff Ignacio now brings this action on behalf of himself, and other similarly situated individuals, for unpaid minimum and overtime wages pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* (“FLSA”), and for violations of the N.Y. Labor Law §§ 190 *et seq.* and 650 *et seq.* (the “NYLL”), and the “spread of hours” and overtime wage orders of the New York Commissioner of Labor codified at N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 12, § 146-1.6 (herein the “Spread of Hours Wage Order”), including applicable liquidated damages, interest, attorneys’ fees and costs.

18. Plaintiff Ignacio seeks certification of this action as a collective action on behalf of himself, individually, and all other similarly situated employees and former employees of Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and the FLSA, and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff Ignacio’s state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

20. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) because all, or a substantial portion of, the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district, Defendants maintain their corporate headquarters and offices within this district, and Defendants operate a Middle Eastern restaurant located in this district. Further, Plaintiff Ignacio was employed by Defendants in this district.

### **PARTIES**

#### *Plaintiff*

21. Plaintiff Guillermo Ignacio (“Plaintiff Ignacio” or “Mr. Ignacio”) is an adult individual residing in Queens County, New York.

22. Plaintiff Ignacio was employed by Defendants at Moustache Pitza from approximately August 2019 until on or about April 30, 2021.

23. Plaintiff Ignacio consents to being a party plaintiff pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and brings these claims based upon the allegations herein as a representative party of a prospective class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

*Defendants*

24. At all relevant times, Defendants owned, operated, or controlled a Middle Eastern restaurant, located at 90 Bedford St., New York, NY 10014 under the name “Moustache Pitza”.

25. Upon information and belief, Bedford Pitza Corp. (d/b/a Moustache Pitza) is a domestic corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. Upon information and belief, it maintains its principal place of business at 90 Bedford St., New York, NY 10014.

26. Defendant Salam Al-Rawi is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Salam Al-Rawi is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Salam Al-Rawi possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Ignacio, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

27. Defendant Rakan Droubi is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Rakan Droubi is sued individually in his capacity as a manager of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Rakan Droubi

possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Ignacio, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### *Defendants Constitute Joint Employers*

28. Defendants operate a Middle Eastern restaurant located in the West Village section of Manhattan in New York City.

29. Individual Defendants, Salam Al-Rawi and Rakan Droubi, possess operational control over Defendant Corporation, possess ownership interests in Defendant Corporation, or control significant functions of Defendant Corporation.

30. Defendants are associated and joint employers, act in the interest of each other with respect to employees, pay employees by the same method, and share control over the employees.

31. Each Defendant possessed substantial control over Plaintiff Ignacio's (and other similarly situated employees') working conditions, and over the policies and practices with respect to the employment and compensation of Plaintiff Ignacio, and all similarly situated individuals, referred to herein.

32. Defendants jointly employed Plaintiff Ignacio (and all similarly situated employees) and are Plaintiff Ignacio's (and all similarly situated employees') employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.* and the NYLL.

33. In the alternative, Defendants constitute a single employer of Plaintiff Ignacio and/or similarly situated individuals.

34. Upon information and belief, Individual Defendant Salam Al-Rawi operates Defendant Corporation as either an alter ego of himself and/or fails to operate Defendant Corporation as an entity legally separate and apart from themselves, by among other things:

- a) failing to adhere to the corporate formalities necessary to operate Defendant Corporation as a Corporation,
- b) defectively forming or maintaining the corporate entity of Defendant Corporation, by, amongst other things, failing to hold annual meetings or maintaining appropriate corporate records,
- c) transferring assets and debts freely as between all Defendants,
- d) operating Defendant Corporation for his own benefit as the sole or majority shareholders,
- e) operating Defendant Corporation for their own benefit and maintaining control over this corporation as a closed corporation,
- f) intermingling assets and debts of his own with Defendant Corporation,
- g) diminishing and/or transferring assets of Defendant Corporation to avoid full liability as necessary to protect their own interests, and
- h) Other actions evincing a failure to adhere to the corporate form.

35. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Ignacio's employers within the meaning of the FLSA and New York Labor Law.

36. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Ignacio, controlled the terms and conditions of employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for Plaintiff Ignacio's services.

37. In each year from 2019 to 2021, Defendants, both separately and jointly, had a gross annual volume of sales of not less than \$500,000 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level that are separately stated).

38. In addition, upon information and belief, Defendants and/or their enterprise were directly engaged in interstate commerce. As an example, numerous items that were used in the restaurant on a daily basis are goods produced outside of the State of New York.

*Individual Plaintiff*

39. Plaintiff Ignacio is a former employee of Defendants who ostensibly was employed as a delivery worker. However, he spent over 20% of each shift performing the non-tipped duties described above.

40. Plaintiff Ignacio seeks to represent a class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. 216(b).

*Plaintiff Guillermo Ignacio*

41. Plaintiff Ignacio was employed by Defendants from approximately August 2019 until on or about April 2021.

42. Defendants ostensibly employed Plaintiff Ignacio as a delivery worker.

43. However, Plaintiff Ignacio was also required to spend a significant portion of his work day performing the non-tipped duties described above.

44. Although Plaintiff Ignacio ostensibly was employed as a delivery worker, he spent over 20% of each day performing non-tipped work throughout his employment with Defendants.

45. Plaintiff Ignacio regularly handled goods in interstate commerce, such as food, beverages and other supplies produced outside the State of New York.

46. Plaintiff Ignacio's work duties required neither discretion nor independent judgment.



47. From approximately August 2019 until on or about February 2020, Plaintiff Ignacio worked from approximately 6:00 p.m. until on or about 23:00 a.m., Mondays through Fridays and from approximately 12:00 p.m. until on or about 12:00 a.m., Saturdays and Sundays (typically 54 hours per week).

48. From approximately March 2020 until on or about April 2020, Plaintiff Ignacio worked from approximately 12:00 p.m. until on or about 10:00 p.m. seven days a week (typically 70 hours per week).

49. From approximately May 2020 until on or about April 2021, Plaintiff Ignacio worked two weeks each month from approximately 12:00 p.m. until on or about 11:00 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays (typically 33 hours per week).

50. From approximately May 2020 until on or about April 2021, Plaintiff Ignacio worked three weeks each month from approximately 12:00 p.m. until on or about 11:00 p.m. Saturdays through Tuesdays (typically 44 hours per week).

51. Throughout his employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio his wages in cash.

52. From approximately August 2019 until on or about February 2020, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio \$10 per hour.

53. From approximately March 2020 until on or about May 2020, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio \$5.00 per hour for some of the hours he worked.

54. From approximately June 2020 until on or about April 2021, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio \$7.00 per hour.

55. From approximately March 2020 until on or about May 2020, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff Ignacio any wages for most of his hours worked; although, from May 2020 to April 2021,

defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio for some of these hours, they still owe him close to 200 hours of pay.

56. Defendants never granted Plaintiff Ignacio any breaks or meal periods of any kind.

57. Plaintiff Ignacio was never notified by Defendants that his tips were being included as an offset for wages.

58. Defendants did not account for these tips in any daily or weekly accounting of Plaintiff Ignacio's wages.

59. Defendants withheld a portion of Plaintiff Ignacio's tips; specifically, Defendants required Plaintiff Ignacio to share a portion of all the tips paid by the customers for catering orders with the cooks.

60. Plaintiff Ignacio was not required to keep track of his time, nor to his knowledge, did the Defendants utilize any time tracking device such as punch cards, that accurately reflected his actual hours worked.

61. Defendants required Plaintiff Ignacio to sign a document, the contents of which he was not allowed to review in detail, in order to release his weekly pay.

62. No notification, either in the form of posted notices or other means, was ever given to Plaintiff Ignacio regarding overtime and wages under the FLSA and NYLL.

63. Defendants did not provide Plaintiff Ignacio an accurate statement of wages, as required by NYLL 195(3).

64. Defendants did not give any notice to Plaintiff Ignacio, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Ignacio's primary language), of his rate of pay, employer's regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).

65. Defendants required Plaintiff Ignacio to purchase “tools of the trade” with his own funds—including an electric bicycle, 6 sets of lights for the bike, a helmet and bike maintenance.

*Defendants’ General Employment Practices*

66. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Ignacio (and all similarly situated employees) to work in excess of 40 hours a week without paying him appropriate minimum wage, spread of hours pay, and overtime compensation as required by federal and state laws.

67. Plaintiff Ignacio was a victim of Defendants’ common policy and practices which violate his rights under the FLSA and New York Labor Law by, *inter alia*, not paying him the wages he was owed for the hours he worked.

68. Defendants’ pay practices resulted in Plaintiff Ignacio not receiving payment for all his hours worked, and resulted in Plaintiff Ignacio’s effective rate of pay falling below the required minimum wage rate.

69. Defendants required Plaintiff Ignacio and all other delivery workers to perform general non-tipped tasks in addition to their primary duties as delivery workers.

70. Plaintiff Ignacio and all similarly situated employees, ostensibly were employed as tipped employees by Defendants, although their actual duties included a significant amount of time spent performing the non-tipped duties outlined above.

71. Plaintiff Ignacio’s duties were not incidental to his occupation as a tipped worker, but instead constituted entirely unrelated general market work with duties, including the non-tipped duties described above.

72. Plaintiff Ignacio and all other tipped workers were paid at a rate that was lower than the required lower tip-credit rate by Defendants.

73. However, under state law, Defendants were not entitled to a tip credit because the tipped worker's and Plaintiff Ignacio's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday (or 2 hours a day, whichever is less) (12 N.Y.C.R.R. § 146).

74. New York State regulations provide that an employee cannot be classified as a tipped employee on any day in which he or she has been assigned to work in an occupation in which tips are not customarily received. (12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§137-3.3 and 137-3.4). Similarly, under federal regulation 29 C.F.R. §531.56(e), an employer may not take a tip credit for any employee time if that time is devoted to a non-tipped occupation.

75. In violation of federal and state law as codified above, Defendants classified Plaintiff Ignacio and other tipped workers as tipped employees, and paid them at a rate that was lower than the required lower tip-credit rate when they should have classified them as non-tipped employees and paid them at the minimum wage rate.

76. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Ignacio who received tips that Defendants intended to take a deduction against Plaintiff Ignacio's earned wages for tip income, as required by the NYLL before any deduction may be taken.

77. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Ignacio who received tips, that his tips were being credited towards the payment of the minimum wage.

78. Defendants failed to maintain a record of tips earned by Plaintiff Ignacio who worked as a delivery worker for the tips he received.

79. As part of its regular business practice, Defendants intentionally, willfully, and repeatedly harmed Plaintiff Ignacio who received tips, by engaging in a pattern, practice, and/or policy of violating the FLSA and the NYLL. This policy and pattern or practice included depriving delivery workers of a portion of the tips earned during the course of employment.

80. Defendants unlawfully misappropriated charges purported to be gratuities received by tipped Plaintiffs, and other tipped employees, in violation of New York Labor Law § 196-d (2007).

81. Under the FLSA and NYLL, in order to be eligible for a “tip credit,” employers of tipped employees must either allow employees to keep all the tips that they receive or forgo the tip credit and pay them the full hourly minimum wage.

82. Defendants willfully disregarded and purposefully evaded recordkeeping requirements of the FLSA and NYLL by failing to maintain accurate and complete timesheets and payroll records.

83. Defendants required Plaintiff Ignacio to sign a document the contents of which he was not allowed to review in detail, in order to release his weekly pay.

84. Defendants paid Plaintiff Ignacio his wages in cash.

85. Defendants failed to post at the workplace, or otherwise provide to employees, the required postings or notices to employees regarding the applicable wage and hour requirements of the FLSA and NYLL.

86. Upon information and belief, these practices by Defendants were done willfully to disguise the actual number of hours Plaintiff Ignacio (and similarly situated individuals) worked, and to avoid paying Plaintiff Ignacio properly for his full hours worked.

87. Defendants engaged in their unlawful conduct pursuant to a corporate policy of minimizing labor costs and denying employees compensation by knowingly violating the FLSA and NYLL.

88. Defendants’ unlawful conduct was intentional, willful, in bad faith, and caused significant damages to Plaintiff Ignacio and other similarly situated former workers.

89. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ignacio and other employees with accurate wage statements at the time of their payment of wages, containing: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL §195(3).

90. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ignacio and other employees, at the time of hiring and on or before February 1 of each subsequent year, a statement in English and the employees' primary language, containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by New York Labor Law §195(1).

### **FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION CLAIMS**

91. Plaintiff Ignacio brings his FLSA minimum wage, overtime compensation, and liquidated damages claims as a collective action pursuant to FLSA Section 16(b), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of all similarly situated persons (the "FLSA Class members"), i.e., persons who are or were employed by Defendants or any of them, on or after the date that is three years before the filing of the complaint in this case (the "FLSA Class Period").

92. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Ignacio and other members of the FLSA Class were similarly situated in that they had substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay them the required minimum wage, overtime pay at a one and one-half their regular rates for work in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek under the FLSA, and willfully failing to keep records, as required under the FLSA.

93. The claims of Plaintiff Ignacio stated herein are similar to those of the other employees.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **VIOLATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA**

94. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

95. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Ignacio's employers within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d). Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class Members), controlled the terms and conditions of their employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for their employment.

96. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.

97. Defendants constitute an enterprise within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203 (r-s).

98. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a).

99. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

100. Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

## **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

### **VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA**

101. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

102. Defendants, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1), failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class members) overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

103. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class members), overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

104. Plaintiff Ignacio (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

## **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

### **VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK MINIMUM WAGE ACT**

105. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

106. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Ignacio's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Ignacio, controlled the terms and conditions of his employment, and determined the rates and methods of any compensation in exchange for his employment.



107. Defendants, in violation of NYLL § 652(1) and the supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, paid Plaintiff Ignacio less than the minimum wage.

108. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ignacio the minimum wage was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

109. Plaintiff Ignacio was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS**

##### **OF THE NEW YORK STATE LABOR LAW**

110. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

111. Defendants, in violation of N.Y. Lab. Law § 190 *et seq.*, and supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio overtime compensation at rates of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

112. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ignacio overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

113. Plaintiff Ignacio was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **VIOLATION OF THE SPREAD OF HOURS WAGE ORDER**

##### **OF THE NEW YORK COMMISSIONER OF LABOR**

114. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

115. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ignacio one additional hour's pay at the basic minimum wage rate before allowances for each day Plaintiff Ignacio's spread of hours exceeded ten hours in violation of NYLL §§ 650 *et seq.* and 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 146-1.6.

116. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ignacio an additional hour's pay for each day Plaintiff Ignacio's spread of hours exceeded ten hours was willful within the meaning of NYLL § 663.

117. Plaintiff Ignacio was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

### **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **VIOLATION OF THE NOTICE AND RECORDKEEPING**

#### **REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW**

118. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

119. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ignacio with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Ignacio's primary language), containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by NYLL §195(1).

120. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Ignacio in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

### **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**VIOLATION OF THE WAGE STATEMENT PROVISIONS  
OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW**

121. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

122. With each payment of wages, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ignacio with an accurate statement listing each of the following: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL 195(3).

123. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Ignacio in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

**EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**RECOVERY OF EQUIPMENT COSTS**

124. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

125. Defendants required Plaintiff Ignacio to pay, without reimbursement, the costs and expenses for purchasing and maintaining equipment and "tools of the trade" required to perform his job, further reducing his wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL. 29 U.S.C. § 206(a); 29 C.F.R. § 531.35; N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 193 and 198-b.

126. Plaintiff Ignacio was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

**NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS FROM TIPS IN VIOLATION**

**OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW**

127. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

128. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Ignacio's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651.

129. New York State Labor Law § 196-d prohibits any employer or his agents, including owners and managers, from demanding or accepting, directly or indirectly, any part of the gratuities received by an employee, or retaining any part of a gratuity, or any charge purported to be a gratuity, for an employee.

130. Defendants unlawfully required Plaintiff Ignacio to share a portion of the tips that he received from customers in catering orders with the cooks.

131. Defendants knowingly and intentionally retained a portion of Plaintiff Ignacio's tips in violations of the NYLL and supporting Department of Labor Regulations.

132. Plaintiff Ignacio was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

**TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**VIOLATION OF THE TIMELY PAYMENT PROVISIONS**

**OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW**

133. Plaintiff Ignacio repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though set forth fully herein.

134. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff Ignacio on a regular weekly basis, in violation of NYLL §191.

135. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Ignacio in an amount to be determined at trial.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Ignacio respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment against Defendants by:

(a) Designating this action as a collective action and authorizing prompt issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all putative class members apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to promptly file consents to be Plaintiffs in the FLSA claims in this action;

(b) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members;

(c) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members;

(d) Declaring that Defendants violated the recordkeeping requirements of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA with respect to Plaintiff Ignacio's and the FLSA Class members' compensation, hours, wages, and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

(e) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the FLSA were willful as to Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members;

(f) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage, overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable;

(g) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members liquidated damages in an amount equal to 100% of his damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime

compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);

(h) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Ignacio;

(i) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Ignacio;

(j) Declaring that Defendants violated the spread-of-hours requirements of the NYLL and supporting regulations as to Plaintiff Ignacio;

(k) Declaring that Defendants violated the timely payment provisions of the NYLL as to Plaintiff Ignacio;

(l) Declaring that Defendants violated the notice and recordkeeping requirements of the NYLL with respect to Plaintiff Ignacio's compensation, hours, wages and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

(m) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the NYLL and spread of hours wage order were willful as to Plaintiff Ignacio;

(n) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages, as well as awarding spread of hours pay under the NYLL as applicable

(o) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio damages for Defendants' violation of the NYLL notice and recordkeeping provisions, pursuant to NYLL §§198(1-b), 198(1-d);

(p) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio liquidated damages in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of minimum wage, overtime compensation, and spread of hours pay shown to be owed pursuant to NYLL § 663 as applicable; and liquidated damages pursuant to

NYLL § 198(3);

(q) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as applicable;

(r) Awarding Plaintiff Ignacio and the FLSA Class members the expenses incurred in this action, including costs and attorneys' fees;

(s) Providing that if any amounts remain unpaid upon the expiration of ninety days following issuance of judgment, or ninety days after expiration of the time to appeal and no appeal is then pending, whichever is later, the total amount of judgment shall automatically increase by fifteen percent, as required by NYLL § 198(4); and

(t) All such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Ignacio demands a trial by jury on all issues triable by a jury.

Dated: New York, New York  
July 1, 2021

MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: /s/ Michael Faillace  
Michael Faillace [MF-8436]  
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510  
New York, New York 10165  
Telephone: (212) 317-1200  
Facsimile: (212) 317-1620  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

# Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C.

Employment and Litigation Attorneys

60 E 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 4510  
New York, New York 10165

Telephone: (212) 317-1200  
Facsimile: (212) 317-1620

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faillace@employmentcompliance.com

May 26, 2021

BY HAND

TO: Clerk of Court,

I hereby consent to join this lawsuit as a party plaintiff.

**(Yo, por medio de este documento, doy mi consentimiento para formar parte de la demanda como uno de los demandantes.)**

Name / Nombre: Guillermo Ignacio

Legal Representative / Abogado: Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C.

Signature / Firma:

Guillelmo

Date / Fecha: 26 de mayo 2021